

DD/M&S 74-2123

19 JUN 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Government Provided Meals at OTS Training Seminars

Sir:

1. Reference is made to the attached memorandum of 24 May 1974, in which Mr. John McMahon, Director, Office of Technical Service, recommends that you approve the practice of providing meals for Agency personnel attending OTS training seminars as a training expense for payment from appropriated funds. Carl Duckett concurs with the proposal, whereas the Audit Staff earlier took exception to the practice.

2. In response to the request of the Executive Secretary for my comments, I feel that the position taken by the Office of Technical Service is sensible, logical, and justified. It has been an acceptable practice through the years, and it is the type of in-house training program which is of increasing importance at this time of diminishing resources. It would be self-defeating to encourage this type of training initiative, while applying unduly technical objections concerning the cost of meals.

3. I checked on this matter with the Office of General Counsel, and the position continues to be taken that there is no legal problem when the factual determination has been made that the meals are considered directly related to training and, therefore, necessary training expenses. This is an administrative problem which confronts all Government organizations; it is not peculiar to the functions of CIA; and you would be exercising the authority granted to the heads of all agencies by the Government Employees Training Act of 1958, as amended. ILLEGIB

4. I not only recommend approval of this specific OTS request, but would also urge that the DD/M&S be delegated authority to approve such requests in the future so that your time and efforts are not directed at relatively minor administrative matters. ILLEGIB

/s/ John F. Blake

John F. Blake
Acting Deputy Director
for
Management and Services

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